

Center for  
Health Statistics

# ***NEW JERSEY*** ***HEALTH*** ***STATISTICS*** ***2004***

*Center for Health Statistics*

*Office of the State  
Epidemiologist*

*New Jersey Department of  
Health and Senior Services*



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# **NEW JERSEY HEALTH STATISTICS**

## **2004**

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## PREFACE

*New Jersey Health Statistics, 2004* is part of a series of reports of vital events and other health data dating back to 1877. This report was prepared by the Center for Health Statistics (CHS), which is located in the Office of the State Epidemiologist, Public Health Services Branch of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. The report presents selected New Jersey vital statistics for the calendar year 2004 and includes data on births, deaths, infant and fetal deaths, marriages, domestic partnerships, and divorces. In addition, population estimates for the state by age, race/Hispanic ethnicity, sex, and county are presented.

Data on births, deaths, and infant and fetal deaths include all reported resident events of these types, regardless of the state of occurrence. Marriage, domestic partnership, and divorce data encompass all of these events occurring in New Jersey, but do not include marriages, domestic partnerships, and divorces of New Jersey residents that occurred outside the state. Data definitions and limitations are discussed in the [Technical Notes](#) section of the report.

The accuracy of the data contained in this report depends on the completeness and validity of the information recorded on the various vital records. Statistics on births, deaths, infant and fetal deaths, marriages, and domestic partnerships summarize the contents of the respective data files as of the time of preparation of the various chapters. Additions, deletions, and corrections made after that date are not reflected in the report.

Bridged-race population estimates included in this report were prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of the Census. These estimates result from bridging the 31 race categories used in the 2000 Census to the four race categories still in use by some vital statistics systems. Bridged-race population estimates will be needed for several years until all vital statistics systems transition to the federal multiple-race standards for the collection of data on race and ethnicity.

CHS staff are available to answer questions regarding the content and use of the data in this report. Data portions of this report, as well as other health-related data, are available at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Service's Web site. Additional statistics not included in the report or on the Internet may be obtained through request to CHS. Questions or requests should be addressed to the following:

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## SUMMARY

### **Births**

- There were 114,443 births to New Jersey resident women in 2004.
- The birth rate was 13.2 per 1,000 population.
- The median age of all mothers was 30.5 years and the median age of first-time mothers was 27.7 years.
- There were 6,968 births to teens (6.1% of all births) and the teen birth rate was 11.7 per 1,000 females aged 10-19 years.
- Births to women aged 35 years and older accounted for 22.0% of births in 2004.
- The birth rate was 35.3 per 1,000 women aged 35-44 years.
- Births of twins, triplets, and quadruplets numbered 5,201 in 2004.
- More than 10% of births were preterm (prior to 37 weeks of gestation).
- Cesareans accounted for 33.9% of deliveries in 2004 and the VBAC (vaginal birth after previous cesarean) rate was 11.1 per 100 women with a previous cesarean delivery.
- Eight percent of births were of low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams).
- For the first time, less than half of births in New Jersey were to non-Hispanic white mothers.
- The low birth weight rate among Black mothers was 1.7 times higher than the overall rate and twice the rate for Whites.
- Nearly 60% of male newborns were circumcised.
- In 2004, 35% of newborns were exclusively breastfed, 31% were exclusively formula fed, and 29% were combination fed (both breast and formula).

### **Infant and Fetal Deaths**

- There were 648 infant deaths and 742 fetal deaths among New Jersey residents in 2004.
- Infant and fetal mortality rates among Black mothers remained more than twice the rates for any other race/ethnicity.
- The infant mortality rate among multiple births was nearly five times higher than that among singletons.
- The infant mortality rate was 1.3 among full-term births, 6.8 for those born between 32 and 36 weeks gestation, and 199.5 for those born prior to 32 weeks gestation.
- Short gestation/low birth weight and congenital anomalies were the leading causes of infant death.
- The three leading causes of fetal death were fetal death of unspecified cause; placenta, cord, and membrane complications; and maternal complications of pregnancy.

## **Deaths**

- There were 71,402 deaths of New Jersey residents in 2004.
- The crude death rate was 820.8 per 100,000 population and the age-adjusted death rate was 753.0 per 100,000 population.
- The age-adjusted death rate was 893.0 among males and 647.4 among females per 100,000 population.
- Age-adjusted death rates were 758.0 for Whites, 997.2 for Blacks, 450.4 for Hispanics, and 356.6 for Asians and Pacific Islanders per 100,000 population.
- Life expectancy at birth was 79.0 years and was 19.2 years at age 65.
- The median age at death for all causes was 79 years. For diseases, the median age at death was 79 and for injuries, the median age at death was 46.
- The leading causes of death among New Jersey residents in 2004 were heart disease (20,564 deaths), cancer (17,215), stroke (3,784), chronic lower respiratory disease (3,034), diabetes (2,599), unintentional injuries (2,329), septicemia (1,902), Alzheimer's disease (1,713), kidney diseases (1,627), and influenza and pneumonia (1,588).
- In 2004, Alzheimer's disease jumped to the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death after being 10<sup>th</sup> in the six previous years.
- Deaths due to pneumonia and influenza decreased 13% from 2003.

## **Marriages, Domestic Partnerships, and Divorces**

- Domestic partnership became effective on July 10, 2004.
- There were 49,841 marriages, 25,981 divorces, and 2,826 domestic partnerships registered in New Jersey in 2004.
- Of the domestic partnerships registered, 1,665 were female-female, 1,116 were male-male, and 45 were male-female partnerships.
- There were 5.7 marriages and 3.0 divorces per 1,000 population and 0.4 domestic partnerships per 1,000 adult population
- The median ages of first-time brides and grooms in 2004 were 27.6 and 29.4 years, respectively.
- The median ages of domestic partners at time of registration were 45.6 years for female-female partners, 46.8 years for male-male partners, and 69.0 years for male-female partners.

## **Population**

- New Jersey's estimated population as of July 1, 2004 was 8,698,879.